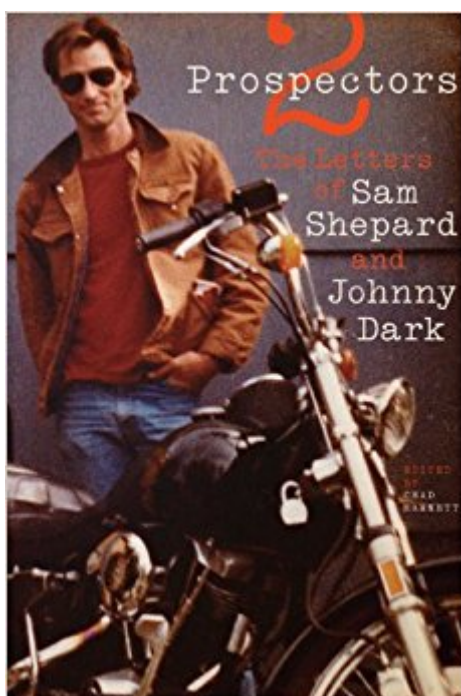


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# Two Prospectors: The Letters Of Sam Shepard And Johnny Dark (Southwestern Writers Collection)



## Synopsis

Sam Shepard is arguably America's finest working dramatist, as well as an accomplished screenwriter, actor, and director. Winner of a Pulitzer Prize, he has written more than forty-five plays, including *True West*, *Fool for Love*, and *Buried Child*. Shepard has also appeared in more than fifty films, beginning with Terrence Malick's *Days of Heaven*, and was nominated for an Academy Award for his performance in *The Right Stuff*. Despite the publicity his work and life have attracted, however, Shepard remains a strongly private man who has said many times that he will never write a memoir. But he has written intensively about his inner life and creative work to his former father-in-law and housemate, Johnny Dark, who has been Shepard's closest friend, surrogate brother (they're nearly the same age), and even artistic muse for forty-five years and counting. *Two Prospectors* gathers nearly forty years of correspondence and transcribed conversations between Shepard and Dark. In these gripping, sometimes gut-wrenching letters, the men open themselves to each other with amazing honesty. Shepard's letters give us the deepest look we may ever get into his personal philosophy and creative process, while in Dark's letters we discover insights into Shepard's character that only an intimate friend could provide. The writers also reflect on the books and authors that stimulate their thinking, their relationships with women (including Shepard's anguished decision to leave his wife and son • Dark's stepdaughter and grandson • for actress Jessica Lange), personal struggles, and accumulating years. Illustrated with Dark's candid, revealing photographs of Shepard and their mutual family across many years, as well as facsimiles of numerous letters, *Two Prospectors* is a compelling portrait of a complex friendship that has anchored both lives for decades, a friendship also poignantly captured in Treva Wurmfeld's film, *Shepard & Dark*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A rare relationship, beautifully and often painfully explored. Both fascinating men.

This collection of letters is one of the most emotionally immersive reads I've had in years. The correspondence between these two is quite remarkable for its longevity and the depth of real thought and emotion that runs through the volume. Some of it is quite heartbreaking stuff. Shepard, we know, is a terrific writer and at times he really bares his soul here. But Johnny Dark's letters are equally compelling in their own right. The editor did a great job in selecting letters that create a forward momentum to the volume. It was as exciting as reading a thriller - even though there's not any natural connectivity to what is written, most of the time. I was deeply moved by the collection and have thought about it constantly even after it was finished.

I am a huge fan of letters to begin with (On the Habit of Being the Flannery O'Connor Letters being my favorite) and this collection is fantastic. Candid photos of Shepard and his family accompany some very personal letters about...well, pretty much everything from art to love to booze.

OH WOW WHERE TO START ABOUT THIS ONE!?? FIRST OF ALL SAM SHEPARD, WOW, DUDE GIVES OUT NOTHING THEN IT ALL SPILLS OUT IN THESE HERE LETTERS, WHAT A DOOZY!!!! Johnny Dark is great, he just wants to smoke pot, read the beats and be left alone. Hey, who lives? Deep devotion to Sam and wow I mean what a friend. Sam, such conflict, man! Whew, hard life, dude, I feel for ya brother. All in All 5 stars for this one chaps!

Interesting opportunity for voyeurism into a long term friendship and a great American writer via their

correspondence.

I read this astonishing book in one sitting, and am reading it again. Shepard is notoriously secretive, and these letters lift the veil.

Thoroughly enjoyed this book.

this is kind of expensive for a digital book particularly since it NEVER ARRIVED ON MY KINDLE!!!!

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